

Piston compressor of the horizontal type

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PCT No. PCT/NL95/00379 Sec. 371 Date Aug. 27, 1997 Sec. 102(e) Date Aug. 27, 1997 PCT Filed Nov. 7, 1995 PCT Pub. No. WO96/15369 PCT Pub. Date May 23, 1996Piston compressor for compressing gas, comprising a frame with at least one cylinder which has an essentially horizontal axis, a piston which is reciprocable in the cylinder, a piston rod which at one end thereof is fixed to the piston, while the other end thereof is coupled to a crosshead which is guided in the frame and is reciprocable by a drive mechanism, and bearing means which support the piston/piston rod unit, formed by the piston and the piston rod connected thereto, relative to the frame. The bearing means comprise: a source which continuously delivers a gas under pressure, conduit means which are connected to the source and open out at at least one outflow opening for supplying the gas coming from the source to a position between the piston and the cylinder, the position of the at least one outflow opening and the pressure of the gas supplied from the source being such that gas supplied to a position between the piston and the cylinder constantly exerts an upward pressure on the piston/piston rod unit.

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